Mary B. Higgins
Conejos, Colorado
1881 – March 1st.

Miss Higgins -

Conejos, Conejos Co. Colo.
Mar. 8th 1881

Dear Mrs. Haines.

This afternoon I received a card from Mr. Morton telling me that you had asked him for my expenses to the field, and asking me to send them to you at once itemized. The fare from Parkville to K. C. was 9 dls. I had half fare rates from Kansas City to Pueblo making that part $ 18.50. From Pueblo to San Antonio the fare was $ 16.90 + $ 1.00 for a sleeper. We had lunch with us which lasted until we reached San Antonio, so with exception of 25 cts for coffee it was necessary to buy no meals until we arrived at San Antonio where breakfast was .50 cts, with .50 cts for transfer of trunk I think this is all, amounting to $ 81.06. Mr. Morton is only

missed and the people are constantly
asking when another missionary
will come. The people are very
kind to me and I am happy here.
The school has kept up well since vacation.
The last of Jan. and first of Feb.
I had over forty scholars. Now it is
time for farm work to begin and I
have to give up some of my boys.
I organized a S.S. three weeks ago
but it is going to have desperate
work to exist. The people have no
idea what a S.S. is like so I have no
one to aid me - but hoping that the
little beginning will bring a glorious
ending I shall try and keep on.
With many thanks for your interest
in me and my work and asking for
your prayers I am
Yours Blessings may
be with me ever
Yours Mary B. Higgin

From Rev. W. [illegible]
BLAINE, BELMONT CO.

Blaine Belmont Co Ohio

Dear Mrs Haines — March 17, 1881

Yours was recd some days since forwarded from [illegible]. I have always been under the impression that Dr Jackson being Superintendent Missionary knew something of the fields & especially fields which he represents as promising and hopeful as the one to which he sent me, & would probably have given you more details but for the fact I think he would keep you informed. And again my relations to the Board turned up so inauspiciously I wanted to overlook all but the communications needed — As to Misses Higgins & Kipp I did all I could to render them comfortable & they are as well fixed as teachers can be in such circumstances (Miss Higgins is in a town of 2 or 300 has a comfortable room & plenty meat to answer every call. ~~[illegible] goods & took them to her [illegible] of spirit sufficient to do till she had [illegible] from the Board.~~ She is 3½ miles fr of the D & R G Ry & 2½ mi from Conejos her P.O. She is of an easy contented disposition & seemed to enjoy her work very much & gives general satisfaction. (Miss Kipp is 28 miles [illegible] living in a Mex family 15 mi from the R R & 8 mi from P.O. She has about her the kind of friends — all Mex of course but they treat her as sort of a little Goddess. She [illegible] [illegible] a week ago she was perfectly [illegible] [illegible] giving her attention largely to [illegible]

able to give us a teacher till the real [illegible]
upon our part — (Three men bro't their children to Ceni-
ciro (Sen-e-pa'ro) & ~~rented~~ hired a room & a cook for them. They are
expecting the Bd to send them a teacher this coming Summer.
They care nothing as to the religion taught — in Cenicero the
children heard the Scripture & sang hymns & recited the Church
catechism. I asked one of them what the Padres would say
about his having a Prot. teacher? Said he "I have one Padre
in Heaven." There is no doubt that as their desire for education is
because the superstition of the Cath. Church is losing its hold. But
there is not much to be enthusiastic over. Their desire for education is
~~[illegible] & they [illegible]~~ as ~~[illegible]~~
[illegible] as one would desire but this may be owing to a fault in
[illegible]. Some of them are remarkable Christians but
most of them bring with them their characteristic
[illegible] & stinginess. The churches such as we have
[illegible] of men already converted by the simple truth
[illegible] Missionary reached them. What the need
[illegible] the Bible for their hand & the [illegible]
read it — i.e. the Colporteur & the teacher & in
time their darkness will be driven away & in place of
the Virgin Mother & a host of other creatures they
will love & adore Jesus Christ.
Their manner of living is simple & in some respects
appalling. I have slept on a bed in the corner of a room
[illegible] half a dozen of [illegible]
corner (mattresses) about the same. Their homes are of
sun dried brick, one story & with earthen floor. Their
time corresponds very nearly with that of Abraham's time
spin their yarn on a stick whirling it like a top. They [illegible]
[illegible] on the head. They always have a shawl over head & [illegible]
[illegible] are not so poor as those of New Mexico. Many [illegible]
[illegible] in winter but it is not necessary [illegible]
~~[illegible] best [illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
[illegible] English & do not learn it [illegible]
[illegible] in the schools [illegible]

[illegible] able to give us a teacher till the next year [illegible]
upon our part — (These men brought their children
[illegible] (Seis [illegible]) & ~~rented~~ hired a room & a cook for them. They [illegible]
[illegible] the Bd to send them a teacher this coming [illegible]
They care nothing as to the religion taught — in [illegible]
children heard the Scripture & sang hymns & recited the shorter
catechism. I asked one of them what the Padres would say
about his having a Prot. teacher. Said he "I have one Padre
in Heaven." There is no doubt that as their desire for education
increases the superstition of the Cath. Church is crumbling. Col. C. B.
There is not much to be enthusiastic over their desire for education
~~[illegible]~~ & they do not quite as strong that [illegible]
[illegible] as one would desire but this may be owing to a fault in
[illegible]ary. Some of them are remarkable Christians but
most of them bring with them their characteristic
[illegible] & stinginess. The churches such as we have
consist of men already converted by the simple truth
the Missionary reached them. What they need is
to have the Bible in their hands & the ability to
read it — i.e. the Colporteurs & the teachers & then
in time their darkness will be driven away & in place of
the Virgin Mother & a host of other creatures they
will love & adore Jesus Christ.

Their manner of living is simple & in some ways
disgusting. I have slept on a bed in the corner of a room [illegible]
[illegible] size while a dozen of their women & children lay on
chones (Mattresses) about the same. Their houses are adobe
sun dried brick, of one story & with earthen floor. Their agricul-
ture corresponds very nearly with that of Abraham's time. They
spin their yarn on a stick whirling it like a top. They carry
[illegible] on the head. They always have a shawl over head & shoulders.
They are not so poor as those of New Mexico. Many children are
seen barefooted in winter but it is not necessary. ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ Very few
speak any English & do not learn it readily. They
want it taught in the schools however) I am not a [illegible]
[illegible]sionary, I cannot color, I give you facts only (Hoping you may
[illegible] much for that needy field I am yours

[illegible]